Projects pending for clearance from Maharashtra

2290. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of project submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra and others in the State pending for clearance till date by this Ministry;

(b) the period since when each project is pending; and

(c) by when each project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) The status of proposals for the projects of National Highway (Original), [NH (O)], Central Road Fund (CRF), Periodical Repair (PR), Inter-State Connectivity (ISC) and Economic Importance (EI) submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra during 2009-10 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Category of works	Number of Proposals received	Number of Proposals sanctioned by the Ministry	Not sanctioned for want of details/ justifications	Likely to be sanctioned during 2009-10
1.	NH(O)	90	45	29	16
2.	PR	16	12	Sanction Limit exhausted and remaining proposals are being returned.	
3.	CRF	190	46	Sanction Limit exhausted	
4.	EI	Nil	Nil		
5.	ISC	Nil	Nil		

Balance works will be processed for sanction during 2009-10 depending upon the bank of sanction available for the State and *Inter-se-priority* of works.

Smart card to pay toll tax

†2291. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to introduce on experimental basis a smart card for paying toll tax at country's several highways constructed on Build-Operate- Transfer (BOT) basis;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Most of the Concession Agreements for Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Projects have a provision to use smart cards for tolling systems. Some of the Concessionaires are already using smart cards for tolling e.g. on Jaipur — Kishangarh, Delhi-Gurgaon expressway and Gurgaon — Jaipur sections of NH-8. Smart Cards are being used for local traffic and monthly pass holders, also.

Export promotion council for handicrafts

2292. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any new policy on export promotion council for handicrafts and other products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of Andhra Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, DGFT has informed that in the new Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14 announced on 27.8.2009 under Focus Product Scheme (FPS), all handicraft products have been categorised as Special Focus Product and are, accordingly, entitled to a benefit of duty credit scrip @5% of FOB value of exports, as against the normal rate of 2% for Focus Products. Handmade carpets and other textile floor covering have also been categorised as Special Focus Products and thus, are entitled to a benefit of duty credit scrip @5% of FOB value of exports.

(c) The above benefits are available on all handicraft products and handmade carpets and other textile floor covering exported from the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Steps to boost apparel exports

2293. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether apparel export had hit their rock bottom line during the last one year;

(b) if so, the apparel exports made during each of the four quarters of 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April, July, October, 2009) so far; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost apparel exports and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. In fact, India's apparel export was US$ 10243 million in 2008-09 recording an increase of 12.93% over the apparel export during the previous year.